Paleontologist

**Job Description:** Study ancient life by way of fossils, bones, and other remnants of historical life to determine what areas were like long ago.

**What do Paleontologists do?**

* Use radiometric dating to determine the age of fossils.
* Date rock layers by examining the fossils in each layer.
* Participate in digs in fossil-rich areas such as the southern Appalachians and the Rockies.
* Evaluate prints and fossils.
* Use a microscope to study microscopic fossil organisms.
* Reassemble remains recovered during digs.
* Present findings to the general public and/or teach at the university level.

**Outlook:**

Average Salary - $39.05 hourly, $81,220 annual

Projected Job Openings – 15,400 over the next 10 years

**Your Interests:**

* Do you like being outside?
* Do you like to travel?
* Do you enjoy solving mysteries?
* Do you like to collect rocks?
* Do you like learning about animals?

**Education/Program of Study:**

* Bachelor’s Degree in Zoology or Geology
* PhD in Earth Science or Paleontology